

Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5103

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CA, US

SUBJ: CANADIAN PRESS ON EVE OF TRUDEAU VISIT TO WASHINGTON

1. MOST PRESS REPORTS ON FORTHCOMING TRUDEAU VISIT STRESS THAT PRIMARY PURPOSE IS GETTING ACQUAINTED WITH PREISIDENT FORD, AND CAUTION AGAINST EXPECTATIONS OF MAJOR BREAK-THROUGH ON BILATERAL OR MULTILATERAL PROBLEMS. HOWEVER, TORONTO GLOBE AND MAIL (CHEVELDAYOFF) REPORTS: "MR. TRUDEAU WILL WANT TO ENSURE THAT MR. FORD FULLY UNDERSTANDS CANADIAN ACTIONS, SUCH AS THE PLANNED CUTBACK IN OIL EXPORTS, THE IMPORT QUOTAS ON US BEEF AND ATTEMPTS TO OBTAIN A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE EUROPEANS ARE NOT INTENDED TO HURT THE UNITED STATES BUT TO HELP CANADA." CHEVELDAYOFF SAYS OTTAWA OFFICIALS DO NOT EXPECT OIL ISSUES TO TAKE UP MUCH TIME BECAUSE "THERE IS NO MISUNDERSTANDING AT HIGH ADMINISTRATION LEVELS ON THIS; IT'S JUST THE SENATORS."

2. FINANCIAL POST (BAXTER) REPORTS TRUDEAU WILL STRESS POINT THAT CANADA RECOGNIZES US IS NUMBER ONE CUSTOMER AND SUPPLIER, "AND REALLY OUR CLOSEST FRIEND AND ALLY." IN RETURN, BAXTER SAYS PRESIDENT MAY HAVE TOUGH QUESTIONS ON CANADIAN EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH EUROPE, AND WHETHER RELATIONSHIP WOULD DISADVANTAGE U.S. BAXTER SUGGESTS THAT SOME AGREEMENT, IF ONLY TO CONSULT FURTHER AT SENIOR LEVEL ON RANGE OF SUBJECTS, UNCLASSIFIED

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MIGHT BE WORKED OUT BETWEEN OFFICIALS PRIOR TO VISIT.

3. SOUTHAM PRESS (FARQUHARSON) SAYS MEETING PROBABLY OF MORE IMMEDIATE IMPORTANCE TO US THAN TO CANADA, SINCE US HAS "MOST OF THE COMPLAINTS." FARQUHARSON MENTIONS "GENERAL AMERICAN FEAR" THAT CANADA MAY BE DRAWING AWAY FROM US OR EVEN BECOMING ANTI-AMERICAN. "TRUDEAU WILL DOUBTLESS WANT TO DO SOME REASURING ON THIS SCORE." FARQUHARSON SAYS US OFFICIALS "VERY APOLOGETIC" THAT TRUDEAU WILL NOT BE ABLE STAY AT BLAIR HOUSE, BUT CITES OFFICIALS IN PRIMIN'S OFFICE AND EXTAFF AS DENYING REPORTS GOC OFFENDED. JOHNSON

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